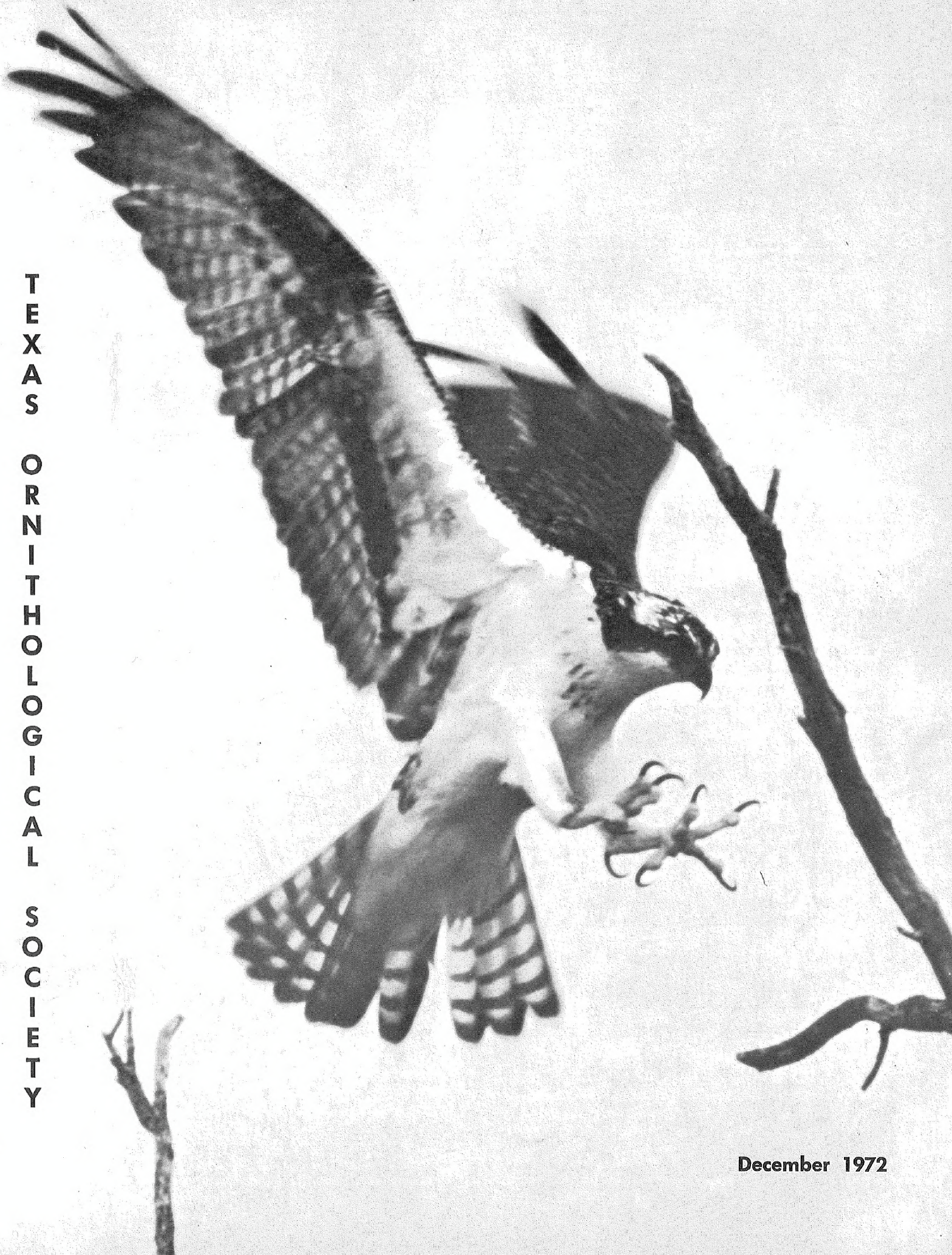


TEXAS
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



December 1972

The Texas Bird Records Committee

At the business meeting in Houston, Fall 1971, George A. Newman, TOS President, was authorized to establish a Texas Bird Records Committee. This committee, as authorized, would have three principal functions:

1. To maintain in a central location accurate records of bird distribution throughout our state.
2. To set up guidelines for validating new state records.
3. To publish a comprehensive state checklist, with revisions every five years.

Jim Tucker, Warren Pulich and L. R. Wolfe were named to the sub-committee on the state checklist with Col. Wolfe serving as chairman. This sub-committee has already progressed well towards the first state checklist. At the Spring 1972 TOS meeting monies were allocated for publication of this checklist.

The organizational meeting of the Texas Bird Records Committee was held at Big Bend National Park on April 27, 1972. At that time, rules were formulated for recognizing new state records or for unusual distributional records. Acceptance will be based upon:

1. Documentation by a specimen placed in a recognized collection and available for inspection; or
2. Photographs either published in a recognized journal or placed in the Texas Photo-Record File or both, *with identification confirmed by a recognized authority*; or
3. Tape recording, where appropriate, and placed in a proper depository.

For certain species or species-groups, *only* specimens will be considered valid documentation. Any records for which there are a number of observers and good notes available but lacking documentation as indicated above, will be placed on the State Hypothetical List until properly documented. Additions for this list must be submitted to the committee through one of the committee members and with a recommendation

by that member. No extra-limital records will be accepted when observed by a single individual.

Subsequent to this meeting, each committee member was assigned an area of responsibility for handling records and compiling information for the State Checklist. Boundaries for these areas are still being adjusted. The members of the committee are as follows (July 15, 1972):

Dr. Keith A. Arnold, Chairman
Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries
Sciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843

Mr. T. B. Feltner
1602 Ridgewood St.
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Mr. Warren Pulich
2021 Rosebud
Irving, Texas 75060

Mr. Kenneth D. Seyffert
2709 S. Fairfield
Amarillo, Texas 79103

Mr. Fred S. Webster, Jr.
4926 Strauss Dr.
Austin, Texas 78731

Mrs. Harold L. Williams
3307 Neely
Midland, Texas 79703

Dr. Richard O. Albert
1800 Newell Street
Alice, Texas 78332

Dr. Charles Fisher
Department of Biology
Stephen F. Austin University
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

Mr. Rodney A. Rylander
2428 North Ricketts
Sherman, Texas 75090

Mr. James A. Tucker
Rt. 4, Box 218-B
Austin, Texas 78757

Mrs. Edmund A. White
3123 Federal Avenue
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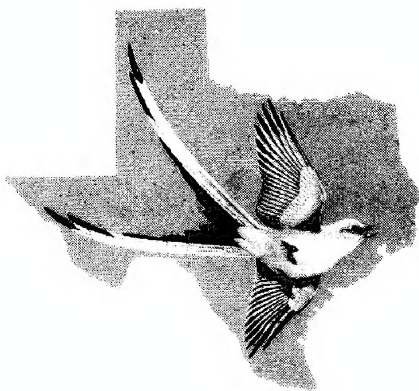
Col. L. R. Wolfe
P. O. Box 11
Kerrville, Texas 78028

The establishment of this committee is a giant step forward by TOS in aiding ornithology in the state. Through use of the committee the knowledge of bird life in Texas will be greatly enhanced. At the same time, establishment of a State Checklist will quickly demonstrate the voids in our knowledge. Further, by validation of records through the committee, such records will be received more readily at the national level.

I am sure that the other committee members would join with me in encouraging all TOS members to utilize this opportunity to its fullest and to provide committee members with the information each of you has about a particular area.—Keith A. Arnold.

Bulletin of the TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume V, Number 2, December 1972



- 14 Birds, Bird Study, and Conservation
of Birds in Texas:
A Panel Discussion

- 22 Ecological Studies of
Dickcissels in Texas
Stephen D. Fretwell

- 23 Albino Mockingbird in
Webb County, Texas
Tim W. Clark
Denise Carey

- 23 Crested Titmice from Cottle
and Foard Counties, Texas
Keith A. Arnold

- 24 Avian Diversity in Texas
Jackson B. Sosebee, Jr.

Book Reviews

The Bulletin and Newsletter of the Texas Ornithological Society are issued to all members not in arrears for dues. Inquiries regarding membership should be addressed to Mr. George A. Newman, President, Texas Ornithological Society, Department of Biology, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas 79601. Original articles, reports and news items submitted for inclusion in the TOS Bulletin should be sent to Dr. Michael K. Rylander, Department of Biology, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409. Inquiries regarding the TOS Newsletter should be directed to Mrs. M. H. Robinson, Newsletter Editor, Route 4, Wills Point, Texas 75169.

The osprey (front cover) white-crowned sparrow (page 17) and burrowing owls (page 21 and back cover) were photographed by Max S. Tra-week. The common egret (page 19) was photographed by Lee Jones and the black-crowned night heron (inside back cover), by Jeff Schultz.

*birds, bird study, and conservation of birds in Texas: a panel discussion**

MODERATOR: Tonight, we have gathered together a group of people that have at least one thing in common: an interest in birds and their protection. That interest varies from one of scientific nature to that of sport. It is because of this diversity that different attitudes arise, often resulting in overlap of purposes and confusion. It is becoming more and more obvious that, if we are to continue to utilize birds for whichever purpose our interests dictate, cooperation and coordination of activities are necessary. Tonight's topic for discussion is: "Where does your organization stand today on the topics of birds and conservation?"

Representing the Texas Ornithological Society are George Newman and Dr. Richard Albert. George is the current President of TOS, and teaches ornithology at Hardin-Simmons University. Richard, who is a surgeon from Alice, Texas, is a past President of TOS, and has been active in the organization for many years.

Drs. Keith Arnold and Charles Dean Fisher are representing professional ornithology tonight. Keith is the Curator of Birds at Texas A & M University, and Editor of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Dean teaches ornithology at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He received his doctorate in ornithology from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Roland Clement is Vice-President of the National Audubon Society, and will represent National Audubon in tonight's discussion. The fourth organization represented tonight is the American Birding Association, represented by James Tucker. Jim is that organization's originator and lives in Austin, Texas.

There are positive objectives for tonight's discussion. Let us think along these lines: Are there definite lines of demarcation between the functions of all four groups? If so, along what lines are they? How should they relate to each other if they exist?

As a way of further introduction, would you please

tell about your organization, commenting upon its history, membership, and general purpose? George Newman, for TOS:

NEWMAN: As many of you know, TOS was founded in 1953. Being a state organization, our objectives are to advance the knowledge of birds in the state of Texas. Our membership now consists of about 750 members. We have many out-of-state members, but I would say that about 80 to 85 percent of our membership comes from the state of Texas. We meet twice a year, and the objectives of these meetings are for people across the state to come together to exchange ideas and to let us know what is happening in their particular region. We carry back these things to people in our various regions to try to help educate the public in these different areas toward the conservation of birds throughout the state.

MODERATOR: Thank you, George. Mr. Clement, would you please tell us about the National Audubon Society?

CLEMENT: Most of you know that the Audubon movement began about 1897 at the state level. Then in about 1903 the states found that they needed a common voice in Washington, so they formed the National Association of Audubon Societies. Finally in 1934, when John Baker became President, the relationship between the state societies and the national society feathered, each going its own way. But in the 1940's, we began forming local chapters, and just two years ago we started putting regional representatives in the field. The movement has grown very rapidly. We now have nearly 200,000 members, 9 regional reps, and a couple of hundred chapters around the country.

**Condensed from a tape recording of a panel discussion held at the Spring, 1972 TOS meeting at Big Bend National Park. Roland Wauer is moderator.*

MODERATOR: Thank you. Jim Tucker, please tell us about the American Birding Association.

TUCKER: The American Birding Association is actually a hobby group of birders who like to watch birds and like to have help finding birds. It was started by a group of us that were widely scattered in the country, who got tired of writing the same letters to everybody. So, we decided to pool our resources and write one letter and send it to everybody. At that time we had no idea that about 1000 people would want to receive the letter. One thing led to another and we began to see that it was a ripening experience. So, we standardized the letter into a small magazine. That magazine is today called *Birding*. We have members from every state in the Union, as well as eight of the provinces of Canada, and eight foreign countries. We are having a lot of fun, but growing very rapidly. We don't have any membership campaign, and don't feel a need for one. Anyone can join that wants to watch birds, and wants to have some help in finding their birds. One thing which we do a lot is listing. We cater to those people who enjoy adding to their list.

MODERATOR: Thank you. Dr. Arnold, representing the profession of ornithology.

ARNOLD: I feel that in a way I have the hardest task tonight, because professionals as a group are worldwide. Almost every country has at least one. Professional ornithologists are diverse in their interests and the way they go about them. We have people who are interested in keeping state records and people, on the other extreme, who are interested in birds as a vehicle for studying almost every category of biology.

Most professional ornithologists look after our interests. After all, we wouldn't be professional very long if the birds we worked with didn't exist. So, most of us at least show some concern in ways that some committees have been set up. We look into particular legislature that deals with protection of species that we deal with. We also suggest new laws for consideration. In this respect, I think that all of us who are members of the profession are involved in conservation efforts.

MODERATOR: Thank you, Keith. Dean (Fisher), can you tell us where your newer members are coming from? Are they birders or conservationists? Which are the mainstays in your organization? How do you interest non-members?

FISHER: I think that by way of definition, a professional ornithologist is someone who earns his living working with birds in some manner. This means he has accepted ornithology. As far as getting new members in professional ornithology, we get our new members from universities, those which offer bachelor's and graduate degrees in zoology. New members come from all of the major universities having a program in zoology. Of course, all of the major museums around the country have trained ornithologists.

MODERATOR: Richard Albert, can you tell us where new TOS members come from and who are the mainstays? How do you go about encouraging new members?

ALBERT: The mainstays are the people who are right here. We don't advertise, but people hear by word of mouth. Each of us has gotten a number of new

members. I've got 10 to 15 in my little town, and each member, if he thinks about it, can get new ones.

CLEMENT: Is TOS growing like all other outdoor groups?

NEWMAN: We are beginning to see an upward swing. Of course, we are right now in April, at the beginning of a new dues year. But it's encouraging that our membership is beginning to climb.

MODERATOR: How about the National Audubon Society?

CLEMENT: National Audubon recently sent a questionnaire to its membership and discovered that new members largely are non-birders. This is interesting because there are supposedly 8 to 9 million people in this country that are interested in birds. But we have only 200,000 of them as dues paying members. So, there is a tremendous field there. At the present time, a great awakening of awareness about the environment is causing a lot of the general public to enroll in our organization. This is helpful. Hopefully, we would interest them in birds in the long run.

MODERATOR: Jim, is there any kind of membership program on the ABA horizon?

TUCKER: No specific program to solicit members other than word of mouth. People hear it from one person and then from another person, and we have more members now than we can handle. Not that we do not want more members, but we are growing so fast that we haven't figured out what to do with ourselves. We are trying to speed up the mechanics of our organization so we can get things going in a much smoother manner. All of our members are drawn from birders. I doubt if there is any member that is not a birder. This organization started three years ago, in 1969, and we have close to 1500 members now. I don't think we are going to need a membership campaign.

MODERATOR: Do any of the rest of you have any comments on this question?

CLEMENT: I had the impression that you had to have 600 species on your life list to begin with.

TUCKER: No. If that were true we would have only 80 members.

FISHER: I might say, that as far as job opportunities are concerned, scientists have been hit as hard as any other group. We have a lot of people, well qualified people, coming out of universities with doctorate degrees, that want to work in ornithology and do research, and there is nothing for them at the moment. This of course is very discouraging. What it means is that probably fewer young people in the coming years are going to choose this profession because they know how difficult it is to find work.

ARNOLD: A lot of men in the past have been traditionally employed by state and federal governments. Government has been tight moneywise, but the same thing is true for the universities. There has been a backlash among state legislatures to the state universities because of some of the ramifications of student unrest of past years, and it's still being felt. We've been told not to plan any increases in our budget for next year, no new hiring.

MODERATOR: Each organization has a journal or magazine. Let's talk briefly about the function or purpose of these publications in your organization. Are they necessary? What function do they serve? George,

would you like to kick that off?

NEWMAN: Many of you know my personal feeling about this. I think that publications are very necessary. I think we are seeing more of an interest by professional ornithologists displayed at this meeting in the TOS. I think there is a very definite need for a statewide journal to handle some of the research that is going on by the students throughout the state that need an outlet for their material, material that is sound scientifically. I think that a statewide *Bulletin* can fulfill this, and I don't mean that the *Bulletin* has to be strictly a technical scientific bulletin. I think we can accomplish both. We were without the *Bulletin* for about a year, but have reinstated it now. I think we can hit a happy medium with a *Bulletin* that will please the professionals and the non-professionals or the hobbist. We are striving for that goal. I feel that a statewide *Bulletin* is very important.

ARNOLD: Some of you may not realize it but the professional journals don't reach many of the non-professional persons interested in birds. Kent Rylander (Editor of TOS *Bulletin*) has performed a service by extracting or summarizing articles appearing in professional journals that would be of interest to persons interested in Texas birds. I would hope that this sort of thing would continue. Also, there is a lot of work being done in a semi-professional level by serious amateurs that, because of a lack of background, they are unable to get published in professional journals. And frankly, speaking as an editor, professional journals are overwhelmed with materials from the professionals. The *Bulletin* would be a very appropriate place for amateurs to publish their non-technical findings.

FISHER: I agree with that. We have some very qualified Masters students at Stephen F. Austin who do a very fine thesis research project, yet they find it almost impossible to get this published in professional journals. I think that the TOS *Bulletin* would be an excellent outlet.

MODERATOR: Jim Tucker, do you have any comments about this question?

TUCKER: Our magazine is geared strictly toward, 1) helping people find birds; 2) helping people identify them; and 3) reporting when they have, and a little humor thrown in. We have had no difficulty getting material to print. I have enough copy to put out a monthly magazine for two years. The quality of the material has increased tremendously. But just like any other magazine, you end up with a budget problem. Our magazine is actually our official function; that's all we do. At this point we have no annual meeting, but we plan to have one next year, someplace, sometime. Since our magazine is all we have it is our only means of communication. In a very real sense it is the ABA.

MODERATOR: One of the finest magazines I know is *National Audubon*. Roland, do you have any comments on this?

CLEMENT: *Audubon* is not a birding magazine. Our birding magazine is called *American Birds*, the old *Audubon Field Notes*. The title was changed about a year and a half ago, and I'm glad to say that if you haven't looked at this for some time you ought to. Our new editor, Bob Arbib, has really given it a new dynamic look. I do hope that those of you interested in distribution of birds will use *American Birds* as a

principle outlet. *American Birds* is designed to keep track of the status of things, not the local occurrence so much, or identification, but rather changes of status and distribution. From this point of view, it's very valuable. Our breeding bird counts are important, and our Christmas Bird Counts are very interesting. But we have a lot of raw data accumulating in this publication that has not yet been made much use of, and I do hope more people will get interested in abstracting these data and presenting them in an interesting and meaningful way.

MODERATOR: One widely accepted publication in the bird world is the *Checklist of North American Birds* that is published by the American Ornithologists' Union. Many state organizations are preparing their own lists. Do you think that two lists (state birders and AOU) are acceptable? Who then should prepare a state or country's list? Who should accept new records?—Keith, would you like to lead off?

ARNOLD: First of all, there is to be a supplement to the AOU checklist this year, which will bring up to date nomenclature of things that have changed. This will upset a great number of listers, because they will lose such birds as the Black-headed Grosbeak, Red-shafted Flicker, Gilded Flicker—they will gain an extra grackle, and so forth. They are going to lose Harlan's Hawk. We just gave Jim (Tucker) a Harlan's Hawk near College Station, and he is going to lose it next year. As far as the state checklist goes, I think it's a good idea for a number of reasons. First of all, Texas is so large that the mass of information on changes and distribution cannot possibly be shown in a national checklist. Jim, do you want to defend your Harlan's Hawk?

TUCKER: No, I don't want to defend my Harlan's Hawk. It just has to go, but I will defend it in a roundabout way. It is true that scientists make definite steps and come up with new pronouncements about nomenclature and taxonomy and so forth. To keep things straight, I think we should go along with the accepted standard. Now that doesn't happen to be agreed to with a lot of prominent birders. Consequently, ABA has its own checklist committee. You may be interested to know that the chairman of this checklist committee is Chandler Robbins. So, we can't go too far wrong. What we might do is come out with a dual checklist, with the primary list following AOU right down the line.

There is a problem which such a checklist raises. If it isn't a full species according to AOU, birders are tempted to not pay any attention to it. And that's bad, because if you can no longer count a Harlan's Hawk, somehow it just never gets reported. And we don't agree with that philosophy. Furthermore, we feel that you ought to report such things as the western form or the eastern form of that whatever kind of towhee we've got, you know, the Spotted Towhee or the Rufous-sided Towhee. And just to put down Rufous-sided Towhee in Alabama, when it is the spotted variety, doesn't give an indication of its real significance. So, to solve that problem, we are tentatively thinking about producing a secondary list where these kinds of things have check boxes also. So, a lister, which most birders are, whether they like to admit it or not, will immediately check off Snow Goose and instead of losing Blue Goose there will be check boxes for Blue Goose, and maybe

even a hybrid Snow and Blue, and other identifiable forms. So, these kinds of things will be countable, for whatever purpose, but at the same time the list will remain pure. That is important. We must stay with a standard or we will have nothing but confusion.

Some people say that birders ought to come out with their own set of standards, and not worry about what anyone else cares. Well, that is exactly what would happen, nobody would care.

CLEMENT: If you want to see what kind of confusion results from making your own lists, look at Irby Davis' new book, the *Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico*. So, I do agree with Jim that we need to pay attention to localized populations, and this is where regional or state publications come in so that you continue delineating the status of these forms. Of course, the AOU checklist itself will recognize these populations by giving the synonymy and all that sort of thing; so the data will still be there.

* * * *

MODERATOR: Bird-listing has been called competition, icing on the cake, ego-lists, and other terms that suggest various attitudes. Although we already have touched upon this topic, I wonder how your organization feels about life lists, the state lists, etc. Perhaps, the main question is, does competition in the game of birding tend to rule out careful practices so necessary to scientific observations? Keith?

ARNOLD: I am not a lister, but . . .

FISHER: I heard you say that you got a new lifer today.

ARNOLD: I have been influenced by a number of undergraduates. I finally drew up a list to see where I stood in the game. I have been around a number of professionals who probably are as avid or more avid than most listers in this room tonight, Laurie Binford and Burt Monroe, to name two. These two, while graduate students, were so avid about it that they had competition to see who could see more birds on the way back and forth from their apartment to the museum, about the distance of a city block. So, as a profession, I don't think listing plays an important role per se. It is just a friendly competition among certain members, but there is no set status for listers.

NEWMAN: I'm not a lister, but I'm being influenced by many of you. I think listing does play an important part, certainly as we see in this organization. There is a lot of fun in meetings like this. Richard could probably comment on this better than I, having been in TOS much longer.

ALBERT: I believe quite a few people got several lifers today, and as the man said, it's friendly competition. It doesn't have scientific basis, I think. It's a game. People enjoy listing, and brag about how many they have seen.

MODERATOR: Dr. Cottam has some words of wisdom for us. Why don't you come up and join us.

COTTAM: (at table) Listing is entertainment. I see no reason why this isn't as worthwhile as chasing a little ball on the golf course. And I think it has some scientific value.

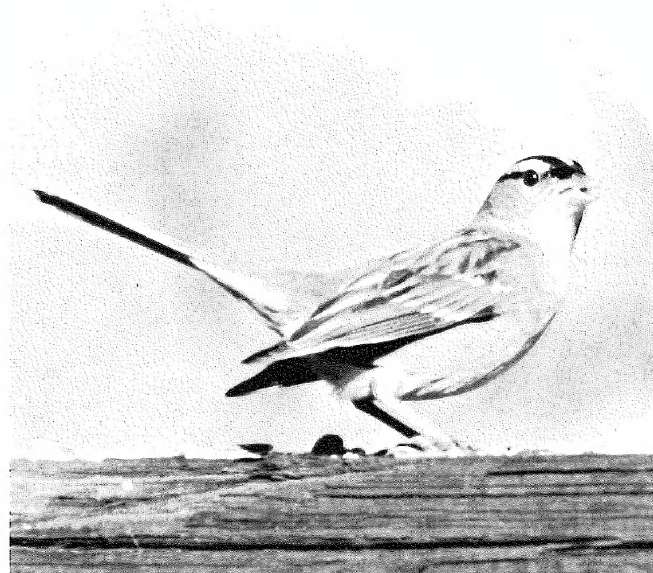
MODERATOR: Roland, do you want to make a comment on this?

CLEMENT: Competition has resulted in a considerable

amount of change in our ability to identify birds. You can see this in the Christmas Counts that the Audubon Society publishes. Some of our erstwhile opponents in the pesticide debate have found it impossible to accept the fact that birders have learned over the last 20 years to do a much better job of finding birds. You can't compare the counts of today with those of 25 years ago on a bird per man-hour basis. We have improved the technique of locating birds and identifying birds. This, I think, is upgrading the whole thing and it's an added sophistication of the sport, and this is good.

MODERATOR: Competition is ABA's base. Jim, would you like to make a comment about this?

TUCKER: We got into this flurry right from the start, and it's a real difficult one, because a lot of people believe that competition is inherently bad. Well, I don't know how they manage to make it through the day! It comes down to this: an individual can look at his activity with many different attitudes. He can go about a competitive activity in a cutthroat manner; "I've found a bird and I'm not going to tell anybody about it," and he's eliminated very fast from the fraternity, as you know. The great thing about birding competition is that it engenders the feeling of "how many people can I show this bird to?" And the more birders I can show a bird to the more brownie points I achieve. If I can't show it to anybody I have fewer brownie points. If I do that consistently I'm eliminated. So, to me, the fact that we have the competitive activity going on adds validity to records. Some species would never have been found occurring in different areas if somebody had not been trying to beat somebody else. This has occurred over and over again. I break my neck trying to get one more bird than Ro Wauer and still he stays ahead of me. In the process we wind up adding birds to the state list. I should point out here, however, that we just can't go out and see a new bird and expect it to be added to the state list. Other people have to see it or get it photographed. It must be observed by others, so we make an effort to do this. But the competition is still there as the motivation. I don't see how it is possible to ignore it or get away from it.



ALBERT: I would like to say that listing is kind of a generic term, and it isn't very specific. Most of us list rather haphazardly. I suggest that the list at Welder Refuge is very different than a list that a bunch of us keep. Connie Hagar's list, for example, has real merit, but most of ours have little or no merit.

CLEMENT: That's a good point. I think that everybody should try to build a list of a local region, in other words, become an expert in his own area. You should develop a list of your own region and have a life list for the fun of it.

MODERATOR: While we are on this topic, we might go on to a related question. What are your various policies on collecting of specimens? Roland, would you like to comment on this?

CLEMENT: The Audubon Society is often put on the spot on the question of collecting. I first of all would agree that collecting is scientifically necessary, but unfortunately it has been abused by a few people and so this gives collectors a black eye. I don't think for an example that we need long series of scarce forms in the Southwest in our day. If someone really wants to look at the variation within a population, he ought to borrow all of the available skins from other museums and maybe just round them out a little bit. (applause)

COTTAM: May I point out that we are doing just that and have for a long time. I think collecting has been abused in many cases in many places. But there are many purposes for collecting. You may have a disease problem that will never be resolved without collecting in some areas. Many diseases that affect mankind are carried by birds. There are no clear cut rules that will satisfy every case, but when specimens are collected they should be used to the maximum.

FISHER: I think that everyone here would agree that scientific specimens of birds serve lots of useful purposes. I think a point that a lot of people fail to realize is that birds aren't immortal organisms, that they don't live forever. Now I would like to talk as an ecologist for a moment. In the great majority of small song birds we see around us everyday, the average life span is about 2 or 3 years. Most of the mortality is density-dependent, that is, it is caused by competition or starvation, or predation, or something like this. If a scientific collector goes out with a specific purpose in mind and takes even as many as 20 or 25 specimens of a species from a particular locality, it will not have detrimental effect on the overall population of that species, after a year or two. This has been proven because this is how we harvest wildlife. The state sets bag limits and year after year after year thousands of birds are killed. Yet the populations remain stable if suitable habitat is maintained. I think this is true for many species of birds. Now, obviously I'm not talking about those birds that are placed on the rare and endangered list by state or federal authorities. Obviously these birds need complete protection, but the great majority of birds you see around you can stand a lot of scientific collecting and the populations will remain completely stable over a very long period of time. From this viewpoint, I think there is absolutely nothing against collecting for scientific purposes as long as you need the specimens for that purpose. Now you can look at all of the museum specimens you like, but lots of times the

data you need aren't contained in the museum specimens that are presently in museums. If you want data that aren't there, you have to go out and get new specimens. You can do this in a way that will not in any way affect the total population. I believe a lot of people are not really aware of this.

COTTAM: May I point out that when I was Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service I was the one that started this, by saying that we have had enough collecting in general. I don't believe that we should permit these big collections with thousands of skins to do any further private collecting. Therefore, the rule was made that there would be no more egg taking and no skin taking just for the pleasure of building up a collection.

MODERATOR: Jim, do you have a comment on this topic?

TUCKER: Only to say that ABA is not particularly involved with this issue at all, except that you can't count a dead bird. So, all of our material is based upon the living bird, and if you shoot it to identify it you can't count it. If you find it dead you can't count it. You have to know how to identify it in life and you have to observe it in life.

ARNOLD: What if you count it before you shoot it?

TUCKER: We don't deal with that.

FISHER: How about mist-netting birds, holding them in your hand, and identifying them?

CLEMENT: I was in British Honduras about a month ago with a bunch of netters. I was concerned with the fact that they occur in nature, not just in nets. A bird in the hand, from the net, didn't satisfy me. I wanted to see it in the raw.

TUCKER: You know, this is a real big controversy in our membership. When we did a survey on this question, it was split almost fifty percent on one side and fifty percent on the other. My personal opinion is that it ought not to count in the net, either. It takes some skill to see a bird in the wild, and to identify it in the wild. If I have to catch it in a net and hold it in my hands to see what it is, and then let it go, and to see it as it flies away, it loses the appeal to me. We are talking about a sport and a hobby, and I feel like the old hunters who wouldn't shoot a sitting bird; it has to fly. I think ours also has to be living and in the wild.

CLEMENT: I agree with Jim on this. I can see, of course, different objectives. The scientist simply wants to confirm the occurrence with the specimen, but as a general biologist, I'm interested in seeing the bird in the habitat. This is why, when I investigate a new area, I like to go in the spring when the birds are singing because then you get a sort of a complex ecosystem picture which means so much more than when you simply get to know individuals.

COTTAM: I think there is another, a different side of this. Much of the loss of our birds is not because of shooting birds. It's because of some stupid donkey that has put out poison to kill the birds. And if you change the habitat of many of these species that are highly selective you might just as well cut your throat. So, if you don't maintain the habitat, many species cannot adapt. So we all must realize that we had better start some habitat maintenance.

POLLY MILLER (from audience): I think it is ridiculous to worry about scientific collecting when there is

such a serious depletion of habitats and destruction through use of insecticides.

CLEMENT: The working ornithologist has an important contribution to make and we need him, but the rest of us, who are generalists, need to take a much broader point of view. I agree with you there completely. The Audubon movement itself is very fascinating in illustrating this. Our first big job was to involve the public in protecting the wading birds, the egrets, against the millinery or commercial exploitation. We won that fight. In 1918, the same group of people, more or less working with scientific people, got the federal government to enter into an international treaty with Canada. This was the high water mark on protectionism. It was very important. But in 1950, Bob Allen, who was research director for National Audubon, called our attention to the fact that our victories of the last 50 years were all in jeopardy because Florida was being drained! Whereas we used to have a million egrets in Florida, we were down to 100,000. This was a serious decline, and this is why the National Audubon has become much broader and is now concerned with national land use policy, not just birds. Some people have been critical of this. They have said that we are neglecting the birds. But I don't think we are. We still work on birds. We research the needs of individual species like the California Condor, the Bald Eagle, and many others. But we have some effect on the national land use policy. This means economics and politics, and sociology. We are trying to grapple with all of these problems now. So we need your help.

MODERATOR: European ideas of the acceptance of a new bird species appear to be different than it is in

the United States. Do you have any comments on acceptance of records? How does an observer get his records accepted? Dr. Arnold, would you like to tell us about your photo record program, and those of others?

ARNOLD: I just wish people would respond a little better to it. There are a couple of aims of the Texas Photo Record File. First is to have a place where people may document what are to them significant records; county records, now nesting records, perhaps even regional records. It offers a central place available to anybody who is interested. Secondly, it will reduce the need for collecting birds to document their occurrence, a most critical factor for most members of TOS. There are no journals, with the possible exception of the *Bulletin*, to list all of the county records that appear, or all records up to the fifth county record, the first nesting record for the county, and so forth. Professional journals simply no longer have the room, while 20 years ago even the *Auk* accepted such records. So, I feel that the Texas Ornithological Society very definitely has a reason for being.

MODERATOR: I realize that it is a very difficult thing to do, particularly for the Christmas Bird Counts, for *American Birds* to refuse records. Are there criteria for acceptance of records?

CLEMENT: I don't think there are any hard and fast rules. We accept things mainly on the basis of faith in the individual who makes the report. This means that you have to know somebody who vouches for you. If you are a beginner it takes a little time to have your information accepted. The best thing to do might be to sit on the record until people know you better.



COTTAM: I recently had an experience with getting a record accepted for AOU. Last August I received a call from the biologist from the King Ranch who said that there was a monstrously big bird down there. I went down there and took a look at it. It was a big Jabiru from southern Mexico to Argentina! Careful check was made with half the zoos in the United States to see if they had an escaped Jabiru. I wrote Dr. Eisenmann, who is Chairman of the AOU Committee, and Dr. John Aldrich, President of AOU, and asked them to develop a policy for what is a new record for AOU, and said that it would be ridiculous to kill a bird like this to verify its identity. We had pictures of it, and there isn't the slightest question about its identification. I think that they have decided to accept that record. It seems there is liberalization and improvement in the degree of sanity of accepting records.

From audience: Do you think the committee would have accepted that record if it would not have come from a professional?

CLEMENT: It couldn't. This is my point, that you must first of all be known if you expect to have your observations, that are not corroborated by photographs, accepted. It just stands to reason.

ARNOLD: Being a professional may not help you. I'm going to hit them very shortly with one that is going to hurt even more. I have a Paint-billed Crake from South America collected in Brazos County, Texas. The nearest range is Colombia, South America. And I don't know whether they will accept my record, and I even have a specimen.

CLEMENT: Well, sure they will accept your record. Let me say that I've been through the mill on this. I used to edit the *New England Bulletin of Birdlife*. I corresponded with 150 people in New England. It was difficult to decide whether I should accept a record that I knew was unusual. So I would correspond with these people and pretty soon decide whether they were really competent. It was necessary to find out if other people knew them. After a while one develops faith in this individual's reporting and accepts his records. This is the way all work is done. You've got to know people before you accept their records, unless they can back it up with a specimen or photograph.

FISHER: I think that we all realize that most birds can fly and hence are likely to turn up anywhere at any time. I don't think that accidental records, such as the Jabiru in South Texas or the crake, prove very much one way or another. But I think the basic problem here is not whether you are going to accept the occurrence of a given individual at a given point in space and time, or whether it has been correctly identified, but where it came from. It seems to me the real question in most people's mind is, besides whether to accept the identification, could it be an escape from captivity? Now, I don't know if it is possible, but it seems that if everyone who ever kept birds in captivity had some way of marking them if only with a little aluminum band around the leg, this would solve the problem. You would have no worry wondering whether or not a bird had ever been in captivity before or not. The idea of writing to everyone ever having birds in captivity is a hopeless task. There is still always a little doubt. Maybe someone took a trip to South America and returned with a

Jabiru, and it escaped. The question is not whether it is a Jabiru on the King Ranch, but where it came from.

CLEMENT: I suggest that it doesn't make a bit of difference. If the Jabiru occurs only once you forget about it in the second revision of the checklist. The important thing is to identify the beginning of a trend in population movement. And this incidentally is why I feel that the first nesting record of an extralimital species should not end up in a collection. Because if it's the first nesting you ought to wait and see if there's going to be a second nesting, and once there is a third nesting then you can afford to take specimens.

MODERATOR: Do you feel that proselyting is a necessary function of your organization; and if so, how can your organization stimulate knowledge in birds and conservation? George?

NEWMAN: I think education is certainly a very vital part of the Texas Ornithological Society. I dare say that we do not do nearly enough of it, and we say in our constitution that this is one of our primary objectives, to educate persons concerning birds in the state of Texas. I think this is something that each of us can do, by no more than accepting the responsibility of presenting a program about birds to an elementary school group.

CLEMENT: George, I don't think you need to go into the schools with a program. The publication of a good Texas checklist is educational in itself. This is why the professional and advanced amateurs have a very important role to play in advancing knowledge and sharing this information through publication.

NEWMAN: Certainly I did not mean by this that it would be the only method of education, but as just one thing the individual can do. There are others, and certainly our *Bulletin* and a published checklist fit into the category of education.

MODERATOR: Have any organizations been able to stimulate their members in any certain way for additional help and support?

TUCKER: I'd like to speak to that. The joiners are actually the support of your organization, and without the joiners there could be no organization. It would be a horrible mess if all of the joiners did all the work. So, the joiners support the few who do the work, and I'm glad its that way. Otherwise, it would be a hopeless chaos.

From Audience: We have members that for ten years have done all of the work. We have new members but can't get them to do any work. How do you do that?

TUCKER: There are two sides to that story. There has got to be a reason why someone has done the work for ten years. Someone asking me that, I'd say, just stop, someone else will do it. I just don't believe it would not get done.

MODERATOR: Mr. Clement, can you give us an opinion on the direction the National Audubon Society is going? How far is the Society going conservation-wise? Is the sport of birding to be left to other organizations?

CLEMENT: I've already indicated that in order to protect the wildlife, which was our original concern and our involvement with the ecosystem in the beginning, we're finding it necessary to get involved with na-



tional policy formulation. I don't think we are going to leave birds behind by any means. On the other hand, I think there is plenty of room for other organizations who want to focus on certain aspects of bird watching or bird finding or bird study. I did suggest earlier that it might be worthwhile for the editors of the several publications to get together. I think it would be useful to all of us. The several journals need to focus a little bit more and agree that one publication is the ideal place for this type of report, and another publication for something else. This is why I've said I hope that *American Birds* would be the publication of choice for information on changes of status and distribution.

TUCKER: We feel, in American Birding Association, that we're not in fact an exempt organization, and we do not have as such an official educational status. We feel that we are a sporting organization hoping to appeal to the hunter instinct in man, and thereby hook him in the back door, so to speak. I doubt if there are very many members in American Birding Association who aren't also members of at least one Audubon Society. But we have felt like we want to focus on the sporting side of the hobby because it is an aspect that is not being covered by other organizations. It includes the listing, knowing where to find birds, how to see them, how to know them when you get there, and so on—the actual sport of birding. We hope that this will interest especially young people in the hunt in a way that will not destroy wildlife but cause them to have nothing but an eager desire to save it so it will still be there to hunt. This appeals, of course, to both the photographer's instinct and the lister's instinct.

MODERATOR: In summary, I would like to ask each of you to comment on the following questions: Are there definite lines of demarcation between the func-

tions of all four organizations, and if so along what lines are they? Also, are there areas of overlap, and if so how extensive is the overlap?

ARNOLD: There is a great area of overlap between all of the organizations because there are persons who are members of all four. There are a number of professional ornithologists who also belong to a state or local organization, and they may also belong to National Audubon and ABA. We have avid listers and all types among our professional ranks. Certainly there is an overlap because there are a lot of amateurs who are providing knowledge that is utilized by the professionals and vice versa. The demarcation between our group and others is that we are earning our living doing something we like very much.

TUCKER: I feel pretty strongly about this, and I can speak for myself. At present, I see too much overlap. I don't want to read very much about conservation in the *Auk*. In fact, I don't want to read very much about it at all. I don't want to read a lot about conservation in the *TOS Bulletin*; I want to read about Texas birds, because this is a Texas ornithological society. We are going to have to protect them. I agree with that, but we have Audubon Societies all over the state to protect them, and I belong to those for that reason. I don't want to read an overly abundant amount about birds in the *Audubon Magazine*, although I want to read nothing but birds in *American Birds*. And I am really thrilled with the progress of the journal *American Birds* has made. It is appealing to my own personal interest.

The point that I want to make is that there ought to be more demarcation, more focus in each organization, so that I join this for this and that for that and this for the other things, and I don't don't join all of them for the same reason.

CLEMENT: I like Jim's point, and I think it's valid because the proliferation of grounds is an indication of the fact that the job has become bigger than it used to be. Audubon used to be the umbrella organization for everybody interested in the outdoors. The Nature Conservancy formed itself because Audubon could not acquire enough land for sanctuary and nature center development. There is plenty of room, and I think if we focused more we could do a better job. We would complement one another and the competition won't hurt at all.

NEWMAN: I think TOS is defining what it should do as we go along. I think just within the last couple of years we are able to see our goals more clearly. Certain discussions like tonight will help us tremendously.

FISHER: I am in full agreement with both Keith and Jim Tucker. One line of demarcation that I think I'm most sensitive about has to do with collecting specimens. As far as I am concerned, the only one of these four organizations that has any need for collecting are the professional ornithologists. I don't think that this is accepted very well by others. I can only say this, from my own experience, almost all of the scientific collectors I know who are collecting birds for scientific purposes are very keen conservationists. They don't want to see any bird become extinct or decline. I believe that professional ornithologists have enough necessary training in ecology and zoology to know how many specimens can be taken without hurting the population. I would like you to be a little more tolerant toward scientific collectors, because they are on your side.

MODERATOR: Dr. Cottam, would care to make a summarization of what has been said tonight?

COTTAM: It's been a very enjoyable evening! That's all the summary I have. I do want to mention just one topic, however. There is no need for duplication—I agree with all that you've said on that. But there comes a time when there needs to be close coordination and close cooperation. Like the fight against the jet airport at Everglades, with cooperation between the National Audubon and other organizations, we fought and eliminated that. And as the population increases we are going to have more and more demands for the elimination of federal reservoirs and many of our national parks and other public lands. Those federal properties are doomed, in my opinion, to a greater or lesser degree, unless we pull together and work for public understanding and support.

MODERATOR: Thank you, Dr. Cottam. Excellent advice. In further summary, it appears that our discussion suggests that National Audubon Society is most concerned about the total conservation picture, and that major concern is usually centered around birds. This emphasis may produce some overlap with other bird groups.

Professional ornithologists are interested in the study of birds on a more global level, and their interests are mostly scientific in nature. On the other hand, American Birding Association is not scientific, but recognizes the authority of professionals. ABA members, like those of TOS and National Audubon Society, provide much valuable information for professional files.

The Texas Ornithological Society represents a more local state oriented organization representing birds and conservation within that level.

Ecological Studies of

Dickcissels in Texas

Since 1964, several colleagues and I have been conducting a study of the total U.S. population of dickcissels. As most of you know, the dickcissel is a sparrow-sized bird that breeds in prairie regions from Texas to Canada. In the winter, dickcissels occur in enormous roosts in Venezuela, from which they scatter daily to feed, much like the red-wing blackbirds and cowbirds that winter in Texas. They nest in weedy areas in what once was tall or mid-grass prairie, where wheat, sorghum, or corn are now grown. The males sing all day in the summer and attract a series of females. Males get as many as 8 mates at a time, but of course, this means that many males never mate at all. The males are violently territorial. I have actually caught by hand two males locked in combat, and I suspect that they occasionally kill each other.

Our group has made 6 trips to Texas to study dickcissels, and have acquired much interesting information about these birds. In this effort, we have been greatly helped by several Texas birders, especially Margaret Francis, Gene Blacklock and Clarence Cottam. Tom Shane, Vic Moss, Cary Tuckfield and my wife and I have made trips to Texas supported by the National Science Foundation, which provided \$11,000 per year, for two years.

We have established the following facts about dickcissels, based on Texas data:

- 1) Dickcissels have a high optimal density for breeding. When dickcissels are too sparse, they are not successful at breeding, nor are they successful when there are too many.

- 2) When dickcissels nest with red-wing blackbirds, they almost always are unsuccessful. It appears that the blackbirds attract cowbirds, which then lay many eggs in dickcissel nests, causing nest failure. Cary Tuckfield discovered this while studying several Houston populations in the summer of 1972.

- 3) Tom Shane analyzed Gene Blacklock's census data from south Texas, and discovered that the fall migration of dickcissels showed two peaks: one in late July (incredibly early) and one in September.

The most exciting hypothesis we have now is that female dickcissels raise one brood in Texas in May and early June, and then migrate north to raise a second brood in Kansas and Nebraska in June and July. This sort of thing is unknown to ornithology and it is important that we prove or disprove it as quickly as possible.

Our Texas work so far would have been of much less value without the help of Texas cooperators. We are better organized now, and I plea for more help and support. We have formed the Bird Populations Institute, which is a popularly based, popularly supported, research organization. Our primary mission is to provide theoretical and analytical support to the banding, censusing, and nest record programs that now exist. But we also are committed to organizing national programs involving amateur effort.

Members pay dues of \$5.00/year, for which they receive a monthly newsletter that is designed to generate and coordinate popular interest. Some of the \$5.00 also goes to the research programs, supporting graduate students, buying equipment or computer time, and paying travel expenses incurred for research.

We need members and we need members in Texas. For the dickcissel study alone, we need banders to work on late summer and fall migration, to record age and sex ratios through the migration. We also need banders and observers to measure the plumage types of females breeding in Texas. These data will help us test the hypothesis of mid-season migration of females. We also need nest records and censuses of dickcissels.

The simple fact of the matter is this: if we do not find interested birders who will help by providing financial and data support, the research probably will not get done.

If you are interested, and want to be a part of seeing that our understanding of birds is increased, you are cordially invited to become a member of the Institute.

Send \$5.00 and/or an inquiry to: John Tatschl, Membership Chairman, Bird Populations Institute, Kansas State University, Division of Biology, Manhattan, Kansas 66506.—Stephen D. Fretwell, Director.

Albino Mockingbird in Webb County, Texas

A pure albino adult mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) was sighted on two occasions in Webb Co., Texas, 31 mi north of Laredo. The species was identified by body conformation compared with other mockingbirds observed at the same time and by the behavior of raising its wings periodically while on the ground (Peterson, Field Guide to the Birds of Texas, 1963). The first observation occurred in a brush-removed area of successional grasses at about 11 a.m., April 21, 1972. Its behavior seemed influenced by the intense sunlight—it made several low, circular flights of 50 ft or less when approached. It once landed within 6 ft of one observer. The second observation, believed to be the same bird, occurred approximately ½ mi away between 3 and 3:30 p.m., May 7. This was also a bright day; the bird spent all of the time on the ground and appeared hesitant to fly. Its behavior otherwise seemed normal. It made no vocalizations on either occasion.

Gross (Bird-Banding, 36:67-71, 1965) reports that of 1847 known cases of all types of albinism in North American birds, only about 7% were pure. Of this same total, 73 individuals from four species of Mimidae were albino. Thirty-three albino individuals of *Mimus polyglottos* indicated a 1.79% incidence rate.

The various causes of albinism are discussed by Sage (British Birds, 55:201-25, 1962).—Tim W. Clark, Department of Zoology, and Denise Carey, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Crested Titmice from Cottle and Foard Counties, Texas

In his analysis of interbreeding among the crested titmice in Texas, Dixon (Univ. California Publ. Zool. 54(3):125-206, 1955) listed no specimens of titmice for north-central Texas west of Wilbarger County. It was of interest, then, when I found a titmouse from Foard County among five specimens of birds received from Mr. James C. Henderson. The bird (TWC 8939) was found dead on Highway 70, 1 mi W of the Foard-Wilbarger County line on 27 April 1967. The bird, a male, was in breeding condition (left testis 10x6 mm).

As the specimen had a black crest while the specimen reported from Wilbarger County had a gray crest (More and Strecker, Baylor Univ. Mus. No. 20:1-16, 1929), I compared the Foard County specimen with material in our collections. In the process, I located a bird from Cottle County, also black-crested. This specimen (TCWC 6806), also a male and weighing 20.2 gm, was collected (found dead?) 10 mi NW of Paducah; testes were slightly enlarged, 6x3 mm.

Table 1 presents selected measurements of the two specimens here reported in comparison to measurements for *Parus b. bicolor*, *P. b. sennetti* and *P. b. paloduro*. The black crests, along with the wing-tail ratio suggests that both birds are *P. b. paloduro*. This represents a significant range extension for this subspecies. It is of interest that the localities for the Cottle and Foard County specimens are in the Pease River drainage, whereas the previously known distribution for *P. b. paloduro* is restricted to the drainage of the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. Field investigations along the Pease River may reveal another population of *P. b. paloduro*.

This is contribution no. TA 9859 from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.—Keith A. Arnold, Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station 77843.

TABLE 1.

Comparison of selected measurements for various populations of *Parus bicolor*, males only. Measurements in mm.

LOCALITY	WING		TAIL		WING/ TAIL	BILL (nostril)
	X	Range	X	Range		
Foard Co.	75.8	—	68.5	—	1.11:1	8.6
Cottle Co.	75.6	—	68.4	—	1.11:1	8.6
<i>P. b. bicolor</i> *	79.8	75.2-85.9	70.3	65.2-79.0	1.14:1	9.6-9.8
<i>P. b. sennetti</i> *	75.2	73.2-78.9	66.7	63.4-70.5	1.14:1	9.2-9.4
<i>P. b. paloduro</i> *	76.7	74.5-78.6	69.6	67.2-72.8	1.10:1	8.9-9.7

*Measurements from Dixon (1955). *P. b. bicolor*—East Texas Timber belt; *sennetti*—Kerr and Kendall Counties; *paloduro*—Palo Duro Canyon.

Avian Diversity in Texas

Diversity is an important characteristic of any group of organisms. Maturity and stability of living communities are usually associated with relatively high levels of diversity (E. C. Pielou, 1967, Proc. 5th Berkeley Symp. Math. and Prob.). An understanding of the diversity in Texas birds and potential changes in this measure are important in habitat management policies in this state. Of particular concern is how the loss of our endangered species might affect the diversity and stability of the ecosystem.

The most frequently used formula for numerically determining diversity is:

$$H = \frac{1}{N} \frac{N!}{N_1! N_2! \dots N_s!}$$

where H is the diversity per individual species in the collection under study. This formula may be applied specifically to Texas birds if N is taken to be the total number of species in each of the s families of birds. By substituting into this formula the number of birds found in Texas (R. T. Peterson, 1960, A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas and Adjacent States), the diversity may be calculated to be 1.875. If, however, those eleven species of Texas birds that are commonly considered endangered over their entire range (G. Laycock, 1969, America's Endangered Wildlife, Grosset and Dunlap) are subtracted from the list of birds used in the previous calculation, the new value is found to be 1.873.

The calculations indicate that the diversity per species in Texas would remain relatively unchanged if these endangered species were lost. Mathematically, the reasons for this lack of change are (1) that the formula contains a factor ($\frac{1}{N}$) which compensates for the reduction in species; and (2) that most of the endangered species belong to families that are well represented in Texas (Parulidae, Anatidae, etc.).

These calculations are significant because they imply that Texas birds constitute a stable fauna with an existing high level of diversity.—Jackson B. Sosebee, Jr., 531 Colorado St., East Missoula, Montana 59801.

BOOK REVIEWS

WORDS FOR BIRDS: A Lexicon of North American Birds with Biographical Notes, by Edward S. Gruson. Quadrangle Books, New York. 1972. 320 pages; ill. \$8.95.—We can only guess at the

kind of intellect to which Coues directed the etymologies in his masterful *Key to North American Birds* (1903)—perhaps to traditionalists who regarded a knowledge of the derivations of bird names as basic to the proper study of birds. In the years that followed, only a few inquisitive minds apparently cared whether the cardinal, *Richmondia cardinalis*, was named after a person or a city; or whether Lincoln's sparrow was named for Abraham Lincoln or some other Lincoln. The bird *per se* was generally the exclusive interest of most birdwatchers; and the name—particularly the scientific name—has been considered a necessary but trivial detail.

But we are said to be entering a new era now, an era filled with people fascinated with nostalgia, astrology, and cryptology, people who pay particular attention to details regarding the significance of objects, as well as to the object itself. I suspect that this trend had something to do with the publication—by a New York Times Company—of this book whose sole content is the meaning of the common and scientific names of North American birds. This is not the first book about bird names, but it is surely the most readable book about the names of North American birds.

The jacket suggests that Gruson wrote this book in a spirit quite unlike that of scholarly and dead-serious Coues. According to the publishers, Gruson, "after being the flack-catcher to the president of Harvard University during the recent years of student and community unrest . . . searched for a totally irrelevant area of study." Is this perhaps also a reason why many others find the "irrelevant" enterprise of birdwatching so appealing, so restful after a week's engagement with their own serious matters? If so, would they find appealing, also, the related diversion of associating the bird with the history of its name? Perhaps birdwatchers and bottle collectors will now be able to talk to each other!

Texas gets its fair share of documentation in this book. Heermann's gull was named for surgeon-naturalist A. L. Heermann, who retired to San Antonio in 1863 with an advanced case of syphilis and who later accidentally killed himself while hunting birds. Harry Church Oberholser, after whom the dusky flycatcher *Empidonax oberholseri* was named, receives a large entry that includes the following compendious sketch of his personality:

He was a complex man of extraordinary competence. A strict prohibitionist, he was called—behind his back—"H₂O" rather than "HCO" by a few of his associates. Oberholser was capable of absorbing enormous amounts of data. His book on the birds of Texas, which is now being edited, originally ran to three million words.

Reference is also made to the biological activities in Texas of Charles Wright (*Empidonax wrightii*, the gray flycatcher); and to soldier-naturalist John Porter McCown (McCown's longspur), who in the 1840's was engaged in military activities in Texas. As for neighboring New Mexico, we may cite references to James William Abert (Abert's towhee) and C.E.H. Aiken (*Junco aikeni*, the white-winged junco), both of whose exploits in that state, though briefly described, make absorbing reading.

But biography is only part of Gruson's book. The genus *Cathartes*, in which the turkey vulture has been placed, comes from a word meaning "purification"—which is applicable to these less-than-clean birds because they "purify" nature by scavenging it. The chachalaca, *Ortalis vetula*, was given the name *vetula* because it means "little old lady." The reader is left to derive whatever meaning he wishes from the nomenclatural designation.

The genus containing the black tern, *Chlidonias*, was misspelled in the original literature. It should have been "Chelidonias," meaning "swallow," and by convention this error is being perpetrated. *Progne*, the genus of the purple martin, refers to Procne, "the daughter of Pandion, who was turned into a swallow." The common bushitit is placed in the genus *Psaltiriparus*, which curiously means "a titmouse who plays the lute."

So this delightful book goes on and on with historical explanations of why we say what we do when we glibly identify our birds. I do not believe the book pretends to be very original, but it is a well-selected compilation of facts gathered from several authoritative lexicons. With a little more effort Gruson could have achieved more depth. For example, granting that McCown's longspur was named after McCown, it would be interesting to know why *this* bird for him!

Gruson's style is stimulating and appropriate, and his occasional flippancy is greatly appreciated in a book that could so easily become pedantic. I suspect that this book will be enjoyed by a large number of birdwatchers who have an interest in names and history, as well as an interest in birds.—M.K.R.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO. Printed by the author. 1972. \$8.50.—Dr. Edwards is not a stranger to many. He already has contributed two guidebooks to bird-finding—one on Mexico and one on Panama. Now he has produced an up-to-date **Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico.**

The field guide is the result of the author's field work in all parts of Mexico, almost yearly since 1946. The 300 pages are packed with detailed discussions of each Mexican species (nearly 1000), including range, habitat, behavior and markings, plus a short Spanish description of each bird. This latter feature has never been included in an American field guide before. Nearly 500 non-U.S. species are illustrated in color. As an additional "bonus" Edwards has included a brief description of an additional 102 non-Mexican birds occurring from Guatemala through Nicaragua; however, these species are not illustrated.

Users of this guide will have to study the Introduction of this book which at first may seem a little confusing with letter symbols for regions and sub-regions, but, if the maps on the back cover are studied, this quickly clarifies with use of species text. At times the use of H for Honduras may be confused with Highlands and N of Nicaragua for northern portions. At the present printing I'm not sure that code numbers for species will have much use since most readers do not possess a copy of **Worklist of Birds of the World.**

One feature that pleases the reviewer is the status of the species in its particular habitat with habitat and ecological aids. If such a feature is carefully studied the identification of many species can be readily tied down.

Four artists have contributed to Edwards' book including himself. Murrell Butler, unknown to most, did most of the illustrations and has done a very nice job on most plates. John O'Neill, already known to many T.O.S. members, did one on the parrots.

All in all Dr. Edwards should be commended for his new book which many of our readers will wish to purchase, especially if they plan trips to Mexico or Central America. Copies sell for \$8.50 and should be ordered directly from Dr. Ernest P. Edwards, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, Va. 24595.—Warren M. Pulich.

PARADISE BELOW ZERO by Calvin Rutstrum, 1972. Collier Books, Division of the MacMillan Company, N.Y., 232 pp. illus., \$2.45.—From the Arctic Circle to Northern Minnesota, Calvin Rutstrum has traversed the winter wilderness. His associations with the Eskimo, Cree, and Hudson Bay fur trappers has allowed him the opportunity to learn and develop an array of techniques for survival and enjoyment in the north country's winter.

The first portion of **Paradise Below Zero**, written in the echo of John Muir, proceeds to verbally diagram the serenity and beauty derived from a meaningful relationship with the natural world. Mr. Rutstrum takes the time and effort to entice those of us who have not yet learned the joys of outdoor living, to experience the invigorating breath of winter. He is dedicated to the task of changing our preconceived notions of snow and ice. Over half a century of winter roaming gave him the authority to accomplish this task. His memories of running fur lines with the Cree and living with the Eskimo are interspersed throughout the book.

Though Mr. Rutstrum explicitly describes his methods of winter survival, he has failed to reach a vast majority of the friends of nature. How many of us can afford a dog team or hire a guide? Too little time is devoted to the winter backpacker, or those folks in the north temperate regions who wish to spend a weekend on snow and ice, rather than a month.

My biggest criticism of the book lies with Rutstrum's advocacy of the horrendous snowmobile. Anyone interested in the preservation of the pristine north country must certainly realize the ecological hazards involved in the recreational use of such a vehicle, to say nothing of the infernal racket!!

I would advise anyone interested in escaping the lethargy of civilization to delve into as many books on this subject as possible, and NOT to rely solely upon one source of knowledge.

The itemized list of equipment, including food provisions and a list of manufacturers of outdoor equipment, makes this book a worthwhile investment. Les Kouba has done a fine job as the illustrator.—Ted Levin.



A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO. Printed by the author. 1972. \$8.50.—Dr. Edwards is not a stranger to many. He already has contributed two guidebooks to bird-finding—one on Mexico and one on Panama. Now he has produced an up-to-date **Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico.**

The field guide is the result of the author's field work in all parts of Mexico, almost yearly since 1946. The 300 pages are packed with detailed discussions of each Mexican species (nearly 1000), including range, habitat, behavior and markings, plus a short Spanish description of each bird. This latter feature has never been included in an American field guide before. Nearly 500 non-U.S. species are illustrated in color. As an additional "bonus" Edwards has included a brief description of an additional 102 non-Mexican birds occurring from Guatemala through Nicaragua; however, these species are not illustrated.

Users of this guide will have to study the Introduction of this book which at first may seem a little confusing with letter symbols for regions and sub-regions, but, if the maps on the back cover are studied, this quickly clarifies with use of species text. At times the use of H for Honduras may be confused with Highlands and N of Nicaragua for northern portions. At the present printing I'm not sure that code numbers for species will have much use since most readers do not possess a copy of **Worklist of Birds of the World.**

One feature that pleases the reviewer is the status of the species in its particular habitat with habitat and ecological aids. If such a feature is carefully studied the identification of many species can be readily tied down.

Four artists have contributed to Edwards' book including himself. Murrell Butler, unknown to most, did most of the illustrations and has done a very nice job on most plates. John O'Neill, already known to many T.O.S. members, did one on the parrots.

All in all Dr. Edwards should be commended for his new book which many of our readers will wish to purchase, especially if they plan trips to Mexico or Central America. Copies sell for \$8.50 and should be ordered directly from Dr. Ernest P. Edwards, Box AQ, Sweet Briar, Va. 24595.—Warren M. Pulich.

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